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12 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of State
Secretary of Defense
The Attorney General
Director of Central Intelligence
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

SUBJECT : Disclosures of Classified Intelligence

1. Our national security and the continuing success of the intelligence effort of this Government are being adversely affected by the appearance in public information media of classified intelligence, including information tending to reveal intelligence sources and methods. Sources of a continuing nature and methods of intelligence collection have been jeopardized and in some instances great harm has been done to the intelligence effort. I am concerned over the serious damage thus caused to national security. It is clear that certain recipients of classified information, including intelligence, have not been made sufficiently aware of the detrimental effect which their disclosures may have or that such recipients have been careless in the handling of such information.

2. I direct that immediate action be taken in your respective departments and agencies to prevent the disclosure of classified intelligence except to properly authorized recipients. Further, I direct that action be taken to ensure that the disclosure of classified intelligence be made solely in consonance with applicable statutes, regulations and

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this directive. Recipients of classified intelligence shall be made especially aware of the damage that can accrue to intelligence sources and methods through the improper disclosure of intelligence. Existing procedures for the control of classified intelligence, and for limiting access thereto, shall be reviewed and corrective action shall be taken where undue reliance upon routine administrative methods or other inadequacies are found.

3. In particular each department or agency shall conduct a continuing review of its dissemination of classified intelligence with a view to ensuring that such dissemination is confined to authorized recipients both within the Government and to consultants and contractors on a strict need-to-know basis. No further dissemination of such information will be made outside of these authorized channels without an assessment by the appropriate Intelligence Chief of the risks to our national security and to the intelligence sources and methods involved.

4. In keeping with the responsibility vested in the Director of Central Intelligence for the protection of intelligence sources and methods, I shall look to that official to assure the issuance of appropriate guidance to departments and agencies, as required in the implementation of this directive. I shall expect department and agency Heads

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receiving this guidance to see that it is carried out within their departments and agencies. The Director of Central Intelligence shall keep me informed of developments under this directive and make appropriate recommendations, including additional legislation as may be proposed by the United States Intelligence Board.

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